

CHAPTER 80  
PROPERTY TAX CREDITS AND EXEMPTIONS

[Prior to 12/17/86, Revenue Department[730]]

**701—80.1(425) Homestead tax credit.**

**80.1(1) *Application for credit.***

*a.* No homestead tax credit shall be allowed unless the first application for homestead tax credit is signed by the owner of the property or the owner's qualified designee and filed with the city or county assessor on or before July 1 of the current assessment year. (1946 O.A.G. 37) Once filed, the claim for credit is applicable to subsequent years and no further filing shall be required provided the homestead is owned and occupied by the claimant or the claimant's spouse on July 1 of each year and, in addition, the claimant or the claimant's spouse occupies the homestead for at least six months during each calendar year in which the fiscal year for which the credit is claimed begins. It is not a requirement that the six-month period of time be consecutive. If the credit is disallowed and the claimant failed to give written notice to the assessor that the claimant ceased to use the property as a homestead, a civil penalty equal to 5 percent of the amount of the disallowed credit shall be assessed against the claimant in addition to the amount of credit allowed. The assessor, county auditor, and county board of supervisors shall act on the claim in accordance with Iowa Code section 425.3. A claim filed after July 1 of any calendar year applies to the following assessment year.

*b.* In the event July 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications for the homestead tax credit may be filed the following Monday.

*c.* In the event July 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications submitted by mail shall be accepted if postmarked on the following Monday.

*d.* An assessor may not refuse to accept an application for homestead tax credit. If it is the opinion of the assessor that a homestead tax credit should not be allowed, the assessor shall accept the application for credit and recommend disallowance.

*e.* If the owner of the homestead is on active duty in the armed forces of this state or of the United States, or is 65 years of age or older or is disabled, the application for homestead tax credit may be signed and delivered by a member of the owner's family or the owner's guardian, conservator or designated attorney-in-fact. For purposes of this rule, any person related to the owner by blood, marriage or adoption shall be considered a member of the owner's family.

*f.* If a person makes a false application for credit with fraudulent intent to obtain the credit, the person is guilty of a fraudulent practice and the claim shall be disallowed. If the credit has been paid, the amount of the credit plus a penalty equal to 25 percent of the amount of the disallowed credit and interest shall be collected by the county treasurer.

*g.* For purposes of the homestead tax credit statute, the occupancy of the homestead may constitute actual occupancy or constructive occupancy. However, more than one homestead cannot be simultaneously occupied by the claimant and multiple simultaneous homestead tax credits are not allowable. (Op. St. Bd. Tax Rev. No. 212, February 29, 1980.) Generally, a homestead is occupied by the claimant if the premises constitute the claimant's usual place of abode. Once the claimant's occupancy of the homestead is established, such occupancy is not lost merely because the claimant, for some valid reason, is temporarily absent from the homestead premises with an intention of returning thereto (1952 O.A.G. 78).

**80.1(2) *Eligibility for credit.***

*a.* If homestead property is owned jointly by persons who are not related or formerly related by blood, marriage or adoption, no homestead tax credit shall be allowed unless all the owners actually occupy the homestead property on July 1 of each year. (1944 O.A.G. 26; Letter O.A.G. October 18, 1941)

b. No homestead tax credit shall be allowed if the homestead property is owned or listed and assessed to a corporation, other than a family farm corporation, partnership, company or any other business or nonbusiness organization. (1938 O.A.G. 441; *Verne Deskin v. Briggs*, State Board of Tax Review, No. 24, February 1, 1972)

c. A person acquiring homestead property under a contract of purchase remains eligible for a homestead tax credit even though such person has assigned his or her equity in the homestead property as security for a loan. (1960 O.A.G. 263)

d. A person occupying homestead property pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 499A or 499B is eligible for a homestead tax credit. (1978 O.A.G. 78-2-5; 1979 O.A.G. 79-12-2)

e. A person who has a life estate interest in homestead property shall be eligible for a homestead tax credit, provided the remainderman is related or formerly related to the life estate holder by blood, marriage or adoption or the reversionary interest is held by a nonprofit corporation organized under Iowa Code chapter 504A. (1938 O.A.G. 193)

f. A homestead tax credit may not be allowed upon a mobile home which is not assessed as real estate. (1962 O.A.G. 450)

g. A person occupying homestead property under a trust agreement is considered the owner of the property for purposes of the homestead tax credit. (1962 O.A.G. 434)

h. A remainder is not eligible to receive a homestead tax credit until expiration of the life estate to which such person has the remainder interest. (1938 O.A.G. 305)

i. In order for a person occupying homestead property under a contract of purchase to be eligible for a homestead tax credit, the contract of purchase must be recorded in the office of the county recorder where the property is located. A recorded memorandum or summary of the actual contract of purchase is not sufficient evidence of ownership to qualify a person for a homestead tax credit.

j. An owner of homestead property who is in the military service or confined in a nursing home, extended-care facility or hospital shall be considered as occupying the property during the period of service or confinement. The fact that the owner rents the property during the period of military service is immaterial to the granting of the homestead tax credit. (1942 O.A.G. 45) However, no homestead tax credit shall be allowed if the owner received a profit for the use of the property from another person while such owner is confined in a nursing home, extended-care facility or hospital.

k. A person owning a homestead dwelling located upon land owned by another person or entity is not eligible for a homestead tax credit. (1942 O.A.G. 160, O.A.G. 82-4-9) This rule is not applicable to a person owning a homestead dwelling pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 499B.

**80.1(3) *Disabled veteran's homestead tax credit.*** The disabled veteran's homestead tax credit may be claimed by any person who acquired homestead property under 38 U.S.C. Sections 21.801 and 21.802 or Sections 2101 and 2102 provided the veteran's annual income and that of the veteran's spouse do not exceed \$35,000. The amount of the credit is equal to the entire amount of tax payable on the homestead. Even though this financial assistance is available to disabled veterans on only one homestead during their lifetime, the credit may be claimed upon the acquisition of other homesteads for which no financial assistance is available providing all qualifications have been met.

**80.1(4) *Application of credit.***

a. Except as provided in 80.1(1) "a," if the homestead property is conveyed to another person prior to July 1 of any year, the new owner must file a claim for credit on or before July 1 to obtain the credit for that year. If the property is conveyed on or after July 1, the credit shall remain with the property for that year provided the previous owner was entitled to the credit. However, when the property is transferred as part of a distribution made pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 598 (Dissolution of Marriage) the transferee spouse retaining ownership and occupancy of the homestead is not required to refile for the credit.

b. A homestead tax credit may be allowed even though the property taxes levied against the homestead property have been suspended by the board of supervisors. (1938 O.A.G. 288)

c. A homestead tax credit shall not be allowed if the property taxes levied against the homestead property have been canceled or remitted by the board of supervisors. (1956 O.A.G. 78)

d. Only one homestead tax credit can be allowed per legally described tract of land. For purposes of this rule, a legally described tract of land shall mean all land contained in a single legal description. (1962 O.A.G. 435)

e. If the owner of homestead property is also eligible for a military service tax exemption and claims the exemption on the homestead property, the military service tax exemption shall be applied prior to the homestead tax credit when computing net property tax. (*Ryan v. State Tax Commission*, 235 Iowa 222, 16 N.W.2d 215)

f. If the homestead property contains two dwelling houses and one of the dwelling houses and a portion of the land is sold after a valid application for homestead tax credit has been filed, the assessor shall prorate the assessment so as to allow the seller a homestead tax credit on that portion of the property which is retained and also allow the purchaser a homestead tax credit on that portion of the property which is purchased, provided the purchaser files a valid application for homestead tax credit by July 1 of the claim year.

g. A homestead tax credit shall be allowed against the assessed value of the land on which a dwelling house did not exist as of January 1 of the year in which the credit is claimed provided a dwelling house is owned and occupied by the claimant on July 1 of that year.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 425 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2622.

#### **701—80.2(22,35,426A) Military service tax exemption.**

##### **80.2(1) Application for exemption.**

a. No military service tax exemption shall be allowed unless the first application for the military service tax exemption is signed by the owner of the property or the owner's qualified designee and filed with the city or county assessor on or before July 1 of the current assessment year (1970 O.A.G. 437). Once filed, the claim for exemption is applicable to subsequent years and no further filing shall be required provided the claimant or the claimant's spouse owns the property on July 1 of each year. The assessor, county auditor, and county board of supervisors shall act on the claim in accordance with Iowa Code section 427.6 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, chapter 151, section 88. A claim filed after July 1 of any calendar year applies to the following assessment year.

b. In the event July 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications for the military service tax exemption may be filed the following Monday.

c. In the event July 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications submitted by mail shall be accepted if postmarked on the following Monday.

d. An assessor may not refuse to accept an application for a military service tax exemption. If it is the opinion of the assessor that a military service tax exemption should not be allowed, the assessor shall accept the application for exemption and recommend disallowance.

e. If the owner of the property is on active duty in the armed forces of this state or of the United States, or is 65 years of age or older or is disabled, the application for military service tax exemption may be signed and delivered by a member of the owner's family or the owner's guardian, conservator or designated attorney-in-fact. For purposes of this rule, any person related to the owner by blood, marriage or adoption shall be considered a member of the owner's family.

**80.2(2) Eligibility for exemption.**

a. A person who was discharged from the draft is not considered a veteran of the military service and is not entitled to a military service tax exemption. (1942 O.A.G. 79)

b. A military service tax exemption shall not be allowed to a person whose only service in the military was with a foreign government. (1932 O.A.G. 242; 1942 O.A.G. 79)

c. Former members of the United States armed forces, including members of the Coast Guard, must have served on active duty during one of the war or conflict time periods enumerated in Iowa Code section 35.1. Former members who opted to serve five years in the reserve forces of the United States qualify if any portion of their enlistment would have occurred during the Korean Conflict (June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955). There is no minimum number of days a former member of the armed forces of the United States must have served on active duty. Former members of the Iowa national guard and reserve forces of the United States need not have performed any active duty if they served at least 20 years after January 28, 1973. Otherwise, they must have been activated for federal duty, for purposes other than training, for a minimum of 90 days. Also, it is not a requirement for a member of the Iowa national guard or a reservist to have performed service within a designated war or conflict time period.

d. A military service tax exemption shall not be allowed unless the veteran has received a complete and final separation from active duty service. (*Jones v. Iowa State Tax Commission*, 247 Iowa 530, 74 N.W.2d 563, 567-1956; *In re Douglas A. Coyle*, State Board of Tax Review, No. 197, August 14, 1979; 1976 O.A.G. 44)

e. As used in Iowa Code subsection 426A.12(3), the term minor child means a person less than 18 years of age or less than 21 years of age and enrolled as a full-time student at an educational institution.

f. A veteran of more than one qualifying war period is entitled to only one military service tax exemption, which shall be the greater of the two exemptions. (1946 O.A.G. 71)

g. The person claiming a military service tax exemption must be an Iowa resident. However, the veteran need not be an Iowa resident if such person's exemption is claimed by a qualified individual enumerated in Iowa Code section 426A.12. (1942 O.A.G. 140)

h. A person who has a life estate interest in property may claim a military service tax exemption on such property. (1946 O.A.G. 155; 1976 O.A.G. 125)

i. A remainder is not eligible to receive a military service tax exemption on property to which a remainder interest is paid until expiration of the life estate. (1946 O.A.G. 155)

j. A military service tax exemption shall not be allowed on a mobile home which is not assessed as real estate. (1962 O.A.G. 450)

k. A divorced person may not claim the military service tax exemption of a former spouse who qualifies for the exemption. (Letter O.A.G. August 8, 1961)

l. A surviving spouse of a qualified veteran, upon remarriage, loses the right to claim the deceased veteran's military exemption as the surviving spouse is no longer an unremarried surviving spouse of the qualified veteran. (1950 O.A.G. 44)

m. An annulled marriage is considered to have never taken place and the parties to such a marriage are restored to their former status. Neither party to an annulled marriage can thereafter be considered a spouse or surviving spouse of the other party for purposes of receiving the military service tax exemption. (Op. Att'y. Gen. 61-8-10(L))

n. No military service tax exemption shall be allowed on property that is owned by a corporation, except for a family farm corporation where a shareholder occupies a homestead as defined in Iowa Code section 425.11(1), partnership, company or any other business or nonbusiness organization. (1938 O.A.G. 441)

o. In the event both a husband and wife are qualified veterans, they may each claim their military service tax exemption on their jointly owned property. (1946 O.A.G. 194) If property is solely owned by one spouse, the owner spouse may claim both exemptions on such property providing the nonowner spouse does not claim his or her exemption on other property.

*p.* No military service tax exemption shall be allowed if on July 1 of the claim year, the claimant or the claimant's unmarried surviving spouse is no longer the owner of the property upon which the exemption was claimed.

*q.* A person shall not be denied a military service tax exemption even though the property upon which the exemption is claimed has been pledged to another person as security for a loan. (1960 O.A.G. 263)

*r.* A qualified veteran who has conveyed property to a trustee shall be eligible to receive a military service tax exemption on such property providing the trust agreement gives the claimant a beneficial interest in the property. (1962 O.A.G. 434)

*s.* A person owning property pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 499A or 499B is eligible for a military service tax exemption. (1978 O.A.G. 78-2-5; 1979 O.A.G. 79-12-2)

*t.* The person claiming the exemption shall have recorded in the office of the county recorder evidence of property ownership and the military certificate of satisfactory service. The military certificate of satisfactory service shall be considered a confidential record pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7.

**80.2(3) Application of exemption.**

*a.* When the owner of homestead property is also eligible for a military service tax exemption and claims the exemption on the homestead property, the military service tax exemption shall be applied prior to the homestead tax credit when computing net property tax. (*Ryan v. State Tax Commission*, 235 Iowa 222, 16 N.W.2d 215)

*b.* If a portion of the property upon which a valid military service tax exemption was claimed is sold on or before July 1 of the year in which the exemption is claimed, the seller shall be allowed a military service tax exemption on that portion of the property which is retained by the seller on July 1. The purchaser is also eligible to receive a military service tax exemption on that portion of the property which was purchased, provided the purchaser is qualified for the exemptions and files a valid application for the exemption on or before July 1 of the claim year.

*c.* A military service tax exemption may be allowed even though the taxes levied on the property upon which the exemption is claimed have been suspended by the board of supervisors. (1938 O.A.G. 288)

*d.* A military service tax exemption shall not be allowed if the taxes levied on the property upon which the exemption is claimed have been canceled or remitted by the board of supervisors. (1956 O.A.G. 78)

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 22.7 as amended by 2003 Iowa Acts, Senate File 94; section 35.1 as amended by 2003 Iowa Acts, House File 674; and chapter 426A.

**701—80.3(427) Pollution control and recycling property tax exemption.**

**80.3(1)** To secure an exemption for pollution control or recycling property, an application must be filed with the assessing authority on or before February 1 of the assessment year for which the exemption is first claimed. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to secure the necessary certification from the department of natural resources in sufficient time to file the application for exemption with the assessing authority on or before February 1. An exemption for new pollution control or recycling property can be secured by filing an application with the assessing authority by February 1 of the assessment year following the year in which the property is installed or constructed. If no application is timely filed in that year, the property will first qualify for exemption in any subsequent year in which an application is filed with the assessing authority on or before February 1.

**80.3(2)** In the event February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications for the exemption may be filed the following Monday.

**80.3(3)** In the event February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications submitted by mail shall be accepted if postmarked on the following Monday.

**80.3(4)** No exemption shall be allowed unless the application is signed by the owner of the property or the owner’s qualified designee.

**80.3(5)** An assessor may not refuse to accept an application for a pollution control exemption if timely filed and if the necessary certification has been obtained from the department of natural resources.

**80.3(6)** The sale, transfer, or lease of property does not affect its eligibility for exemption as long as the requirements of Iowa Code subsection 427.1(19) and rule 701—80.3(427), Iowa Administrative Code, are satisfied.

**80.3(7)** No exemption shall be allowed unless the department of natural resources has certified that the primary use of the property for which the taxpayer is seeking an exemption is to control or abate air or water pollution or to enhance the quality of any air or water in this state or that the primary use of the property is for recycling.

**80.3(8)** In the event that qualified property is assessed as a unit with other property not having a pollution control or recycling function, the exemption shall be limited to the increase in the assessed valuation of the unit which is attributable to the pollution control or recycling property.

EXAMPLE

Valuation of unit with pollution control or recycling property	\$100,000
Valuation of unit without pollution control or recycling property	<u>50,000</u>
Allowable amount of exemption	\$ 50,000

**80.3(9)** The value of property to be exempt from taxation shall be the fair and reasonable market value of such property as of January 1 of each year for which the exemption is claimed, rather than the original cost of such property.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code subsection 427.1(19).

**701—80.4(427) Low-rent housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities.**

**80.4(1)** As used in Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21), the term “nonprofit organization” means an organization, no part of the net income of which is distributable to its members, directors or officers.

**80.4(2)** As used in Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21), the term “low-rent housing” means housing the rent for which is less than that being received or which could be received for similar properties on the open market in the same assessing jurisdiction. Federal rent subsidies received by the occupant shall be excluded in determining whether the rental fee charged meets this definition.

**80.4(3)** As used in Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21), the term “elderly” means any person at least 62 years of age.

**80.4(4)** As used in Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21), the term “persons with physical or mental disabilities” means a person whose physical or mental condition is such that the person is unable to engage in substantial gainful employment.

**80.4(5)** The exemption granted in Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21) extends only to property which is both owned and operated by a nonprofit organization. Property either owned or operated by a private person is not eligible for exemption under Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21).

**80.4(6)** The income of persons living in housing eligible for exemption under Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21) shall not be considered in determining the property’s taxable status.

**80.4(7)** An organization seeking an exemption under Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21) shall file a statement with the local assessor pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 427.1(14).

**80.4(8)** The exemption authorized by Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21) extends only until the original low-rent housing development mortgage on the property is paid in full or expires. If an additional mortgage has been secured, the exemption shall extend only until the original mortgage is paid in full or otherwise discharged.

**80.4(9)** In complying with the requirements of Iowa Code subsection 427.1(14), the provisions of rule 701—78.4(427) shall apply.

**80.4(10)** In determining the taxable status of property for which an exemption is claimed under Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21), the appropriate assessor shall follow rules 701—78.1(427,441) to 701—78.5(427).

**80.4(11)** If only a portion of a structure is used to provide low-rent housing units to the elderly and persons with disabilities, the exemption for the property on which the structure is located shall be limited to that portion of the structure so used. The valuation exempted shall bear the same relationship to the total value of the property as the area of the structure used to provide low-rent housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities bears to the total area of the structure unless a better method for determining the exempt valuation is available. The valuation of the land shall be exempted in the same proportion.

**80.4(12)** The property tax exemption provided in Iowa Code subsection 427.1(21) shall be based upon occupancy by elderly or persons with disabilities as of July 1 of the assessment year. However, nothing in this subrule shall prevent the taxation of such property in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 427.19.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code subsections 427.1(14) and 427.1(21).

#### **701—80.5(427) Speculative shell buildings.**

**80.5(1)** *Authority of city council and board of supervisors.* A city council or county board of supervisors may enact an ordinance granting property tax exemptions for value added as a result of new construction, reconstruction or renovation of speculative shell buildings owned by community development organizations, not-for-profit cooperative associations under Iowa Code chapter 499A, or for-profit entities. See Iowa Code section 427.1(27) for definitions. The percentage of exemption and period of time over which the exemption may be allowed are established by the council or board in the ordinance authorizing the exemption, and the same exemption applies to all qualifying property within that jurisdiction.

**80.5(2)** *Eligibility for exemption.* The value added by new construction, reconstruction, or renovation and first assessed prior to January 1 of the calendar year in which an ordinance authorizing a tax exemption becomes effective is not eligible for exemption. However, the value added as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the ordinance becomes effective is eligible for exemption if the ordinance is in effect on February 1 of that calendar year. This subrule does not apply to new construction projects having received prior approval.

#### **80.5(3) Application for exemption.**

*a.* A community development organization, not-for-profit cooperative association, or for-profit entity must file an application for exemption with the assessor between January 1 and February 1, inclusive, of the year in which the value added is first assessed. If approved, no application for exemption is required to be filed in subsequent years for that value added. An application cannot be filed if a valid ordinance has not been enacted. If an application is not filed by February 1 of the year in which the value added is first assessed, the organization, association, or entity cannot receive, in subsequent years, the exemption for that value added. However, if the organization, association, or entity has received prior approval, the application must be filed by February 1 of the year in which the total value added for the new construction is first assessed.

b. In the event that February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications for the exemption may be filed the following Monday.

c. Applications submitted by mail must be accepted if postmarked on or before February 1, or in the event that February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, a postmark date of the following Monday is acceptable.

**80.5(4) *Prior approval.*** To obtain prior approval for a project, the proposal of the organization, association, or entity must be approved by a specific ordinance addressing the proposal and passed by the city council or board of supervisors. The original ordinance providing for the exemption does not constitute the granting of prior approval for a project. If an organization, association, or entity has obtained a prior approval ordinance from a city council or board of supervisors, the exemption cannot be obtained until the year in which all value added for the completed project is first assessed. Reconstruction and renovation projects must receive prior approval to qualify for exemption.

**80.5(5) *Termination of exemption.*** The exemption continues until the property is leased or sold, the time period specified in the ordinance elapses, or the exemption is terminated by ordinance of the city council or board of supervisors. If the ordinance authorizing the exemption is repealed, all existing exemptions continue until their expiration and any projects having received prior approval for exemption are to be granted an exemption upon completion of the project.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 427.1(27).

#### **701—80.6(427B) Industrial property tax exemption.**

**80.6(1) *Authority of city council and board of supervisors.*** A partial exemption ordinance enacted pursuant to Iowa Code section 427B.1 shall be available to all qualifying property. A city council or county board of supervisors does not have the authority to enact an ordinance granting a partial exemption to only certain qualifying properties (1980 O.A.G. 639). As used in this rule, the term “qualifying property” means property classified and assessed as real estate pursuant to 701—subrule 71.1(6), warehouses and distribution centers, research service facilities, and owner-operated cattle facilities. “Warehouse” means a building or structure used as a public warehouse for the storage of goods pursuant to Iowa Code sections 554.7101 to 554.7603, except that it does not mean a building or structure used primarily to store raw agricultural products or from which goods are sold at retail. “Distribution center” means a building or structure used primarily for the storage of goods which are intended for subsequent shipment to retail outlets. Distribution center does not mean a building or structure used primarily to store raw agricultural products, used primarily by a manufacturer to store goods to be used in the manufacturing process, used primarily for the storage of petroleum products, or used for the retail sale of goods. A “research service facility” is one or more buildings devoted primarily to research and development activities or corporate research services. Research and development activities include, but are not limited to, the design and production or manufacture of prototype products for experimental use. A research service facility does not have as its primary purpose the providing of on-site services to the public. “Owner-operated cattle facility” means a building or structure used primarily in the raising of cattle and which is operated by the person owning the facility.



**80.6(2) *Prior approval.*** Only upon enactment of a partial property tax exemption ordinance in accordance with Iowa Code section 427B.1 may a city council or board of supervisors enact a prior approval ordinance for pending individual projects in accordance with Iowa Code section 427B.4. To obtain prior approval for a project, a property owner's proposal must be approved by a specific ordinance addressing the proposal and passed by the city council or board of supervisors. The original ordinance providing for the partial exemption does not constitute the granting of prior approval for a project. Also, prior approval for a project can only be granted by ordinance of the city council or board of supervisors; an official or representative of a city or county does not have the independent authority to grant prior approval for a project. If a taxpayer has obtained a prior approval ordinance from a city council or board of supervisors, the partial exemption cannot be obtained until the year in which all value added for the project is first assessed. (1980 O.A.G. 639)

**80.6(3) *Repeal of ordinance.*** A new construction project having received prior approval for exemption in accordance with subrule 80.6(2) shall be granted such exemption upon completion of the project even if the city council or board of supervisors subsequently repeals the ordinance passed in accordance with Iowa Code section 427B.1. (1980 O.A.G. 639)

**80.6(4) *Annexation of property previously granted exemption.*** A partial property tax exemption which has been granted and is in existence shall not be discontinued or disallowed in the event that the property upon which such exemption has been previously granted is located in an area which is subsequently annexed by a city or becomes subject to the jurisdiction of a county in which an ordinance has not been passed by the city council or county board of supervisors allowing such exemptions within that jurisdiction. The existing exemption shall continue until its expiration.

**80.6(5) *Eligibility for exemption.***

*a.* The value added by new construction or reconstruction and first assessed prior to January 1 of the calendar year in which an ordinance authorizing a partial property tax exemption becomes effective, and new machinery and equipment assessed as real estate acquired and utilized prior to January 1 of the calendar year in which the ordinance or resolution becomes effective, are not eligible for exemption. However, the value added as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the ordinance becomes effective is eligible for exemption if the ordinance is in effect prior to February 1 of that calendar year and if all other eligibility and application requirements are satisfied.

EXAMPLE 1: A \$1,000,000 new construction project on qualifying property is begun in July 1984. \$500,000 in value of the partially completed project is completed in 1984 and first assessed as of January 1, 1985. The project is completed in 1985 adding an additional value of \$500,000 which is first assessed as of January 1, 1986, bringing the total assessed value of the completed project to \$1,000,000 as of the January 1, 1986, assessment.

A city ordinance authorizing the partial exemption program is passed and becomes effective January 15, 1987. This project is not eligible for a property tax exemption for any value added as a result of the new construction project.

EXAMPLE 2: Assuming the same factual situation as in Example 1, except that the ordinance authorizing the partial exemption program becomes effective on January 15, 1986, the \$500,000 in assessed value added as of the January 1, 1986, assessment is eligible for the partial exemption if an application is filed with the assessor between January 1 and February 1, 1986, inclusive.

EXAMPLE 3: Assuming the same factual situation as in Example 1, except that the ordinance authorizing the partial exemption program becomes effective on February 15, 1986. Since the statutory application filing deadline is February 1, no value added and first assessed as of January 1, 1986, is eligible for a partial exemption. The project in this example would receive no exemption for any value added as a result of the new construction.

This subrule does not apply to new construction projects having received prior approval in accordance with subrule 80.6(2).

b. New machinery and equipment assessed as real estate shall be eligible for partial exemption only if used primarily in the manufacturing process. For example, computer equipment used primarily to maintain payroll records would not be eligible for exemption, whereas computer equipment utilized primarily to control or monitor actual product assembly would be eligible.

c. If any other property tax exemption is granted for the same assessment year for all or any of the property which has been granted a partial exemption, the partial property tax exemption shall be disallowed for the year in which the other exemption is actually received.

d. Only qualifying property is eligible to receive the partial property tax exemption (O.A.G. 81-2-18).

e. A taxpayer cannot receive the partial property tax exemption for industrial machinery or equipment if the machinery or equipment was previously assessed in the state of Iowa. Industrial machinery and equipment previously used in another state may qualify for the partial exemption if all criteria for receiving the partial exemption are satisfied.

f. Industrial machinery and equipment is eligible to receive the partial property tax exemption if it changes the existing operational status other than by merely maintaining or expanding the existing operational status. This rule applies whether the machinery and equipment is placed in a new building, an existing building, or a reconstructed building. If new machinery is used to produce an existing product more efficiently or to produce merely a more advanced version of the existing product, the existing operational status would only be maintained or expanded and the machinery would not be eligible for the exemption. However, if the new machinery produces a product distinctly different from that currently produced, the existing operational status has been changed.

**80.6(6) *Application for exemption.***

a. An eligible property owner shall file an application for exemption with the assessor between January 1 and February 1, inclusive, of the year for which the value added is first assessed for tax purposes. An application cannot be filed if a valid ordinance has not been enacted in accordance with Iowa Code section 427B.1 (O.A.G. 82-3-5). If an application is not filed by February 1 of the year for which the value added is first assessed, the taxpayer cannot receive in subsequent years the partial exemption for that value added (O.A.G. 82-1-17). However, if a taxpayer has received prior approval in accordance with Iowa Code section 427B.4 and subrule 80.6(2), the application is to be filed by not later than February 1 of the year for which the total value added is first assessed as the approved completed project.

b. In the event that February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, applications for the industrial property tax exemption may be filed the following Monday.

c. Applications submitted by mail shall be accepted if postmarked on or before February 1, or in the event that February 1 falls on either a Saturday or Sunday, a postmark date of the following Monday shall be accepted.

**80.6(7) *Change in use of property.*** If property ceases to be used as qualifying property, no partial exemption shall be allowed as of January 1 of the year following the calendar year in which the change in use takes place or for subsequent years. If property under construction ceases to be constructed for use as qualifying property, no partial exemption shall be allowed as of January 1 of the year following the calendar year in which this cessation occurs. However, such a change in the use of the property does not affect the validity of any partial exemption received for the property while it was used or under construction as qualifying property.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 427B.1 to 427B.7.

**701—80.7(427B) Assessment of computers and industrial machinery and equipment.**

**80.7(1)** Computers and industrial machinery and equipment are to be assessed at 30 percent of the property's net acquisition cost through the 1998 assessment year, 22 percent of the net acquisition cost in the 1999 assessment year, 14 percent of the net acquisition cost in the 2000 assessment year, and 6 percent of the net acquisition cost in the 2001 assessment year. The property will be exempt from tax beginning with the 2002 assessment year.

Computers and industrial machinery and equipment acquired after December 31, 1993, and not previously assessed in Iowa, are exempt from tax.

Computers and industrial machinery and equipment assessed pursuant to Iowa Code section 427B.17 are not eligible to receive the partial property tax exemption under Iowa Code sections 427B.1 to 427B.7.

**80.7(2)** Computers assessed under Iowa Code section 427A.1(1)“j” are limited to the percent of the computer's net acquisition cost as provided in Iowa Code section 427B.17 regardless of the classification of the real estate in which the computer is located.

**80.7(3)** For computers and industrial machinery and equipment, the net acquisition cost shall be the acquired cost of the property.

**80.7(4)** Computation of taxpayer's value. Assume a machine is acquired at a net acquisition cost of \$10,000. Assume also that the actual depreciated value of the machine is \$9,000. The value on which taxes would be levied would be limited to \$3,000 ( $\$10,000 \times .30$ ). This percent will change over the course of the phaseout of the tax.

**80.7(5)** If all or a portion of the value of property assessed pursuant to Iowa Code section 427B.17 is eligible to receive an exemption from taxation, the amount of value to be exempt shall be subtracted from the net acquisition cost of the property before the taxpayer's value prescribed in Iowa Code section 427B.17 is determined. For example, if property has a net acquisition cost of \$30,000 and is eligible to receive a pollution exemption for \$15,000 of value, the taxable net acquisition cost would be \$15,000 and the taxpayer's value would be \$4,500 ( $\$15,000 \times .30$ ). This percent will change over the course of the phaseout of the tax.

**80.7(6)** In the event the actual depreciated fair market value of property assessed pursuant to Iowa Code section 427B.17 is less than the valuation determined as a percent of the net acquisition cost of the property as provided in Iowa Code section 427B.17, the taxpayer's assessed value would be equal to the actual depreciated fair market value of the property.

**80.7(7)** Property ineligible for phaseout and exemption. Computers and industrial machinery and equipment, the taxes on which are used to fund a new jobs training project approved on or before June 30, 1995, do not qualify for the exemption provided in Iowa Code section 427B.17(2) nor the phaseout contained in Iowa Code section 427B.17(3) until the assessment year following the calendar year in which the funding obligations have been retired, refinanced, or refunded. At that time, the property will be subject to phaseout if acquired prior to January 1, 1994, or exempt from tax if acquired after December 31, 1993, and not previously assessed in Iowa. See subrule 80.7(1). The community college must notify the assessor by February 15 of each assessment year if the community college will be using a taxpayer's machinery and equipment taxes to finance a project that year. In any year in which the community college does rely on a taxpayer's machinery and equipment taxes for funding, the phaseout and exemption will not apply to that taxpayer that year.

**80.7(8)** County replacement.

*a.* For fiscal years beginning July 1, 1996, and ending June 30, 2001, the county replacement amount shall be equal to the difference between the assessed value of computers and industrial machinery and equipment as of January 1 of the previous calendar year and the assessed value of such property as of January 1, 1994, multiplied by the tax levy rate for that fiscal year. If there is an increase in valuation (the January 1, 1994, value is less), there will be no replacement for that fiscal year.

b. For fiscal years beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2004, the county replacement amount shall be equal to the difference between the assessed value of computers and industrial machinery and equipment as of January 1 of the previous calendar year and the assessed value of such property as of January 1, 1994, less, if any, the increase in the assessed value of commercial and industrial property as of January 1 of the previous calendar year and the assessed value of such property as of January 1, 1994, multiplied by the tax levy rate for that fiscal year. If the calculation results in a negative amount, there will be no replacement for that fiscal year.

c. The replacement amounts shall be determined for each taxing district and a replacement claim summarizing the total amounts for the county prepared and submitted by the county auditor to the department of revenue and finance by September 1 of each year. The department shall pay the replacement amount to the county treasurer in September and March of each year.

d. No replacement is allowable if a community college elects not to fund a new jobs training project with a tax on computers and industrial machinery and equipment.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 427B as amended by 2003 Iowa Acts, Senate File 453.

### **701—80.8(404) Urban revitalization partial exemption.**

**80.8(1) *Area designated.*** An area containing only one building or structure cannot be designated as an urban revitalization area (1980 O.A.G. 786).

**80.8(2) *Prior approval.*** To obtain prior approval for a project, a property owner's proposal must be approved by a specific resolution addressing the proposal and passed by the city council or county board of supervisors. The original ordinance providing for the urban revitalization area does not constitute the granting of prior approval for any particular project. Also, prior approval for a project can only be granted by resolution of the city council or county board of supervisors; an official or representative of a city or county does not have the independent authority to grant prior approval for a project.

**80.8(3) *Eligibility for exemption.*** Improvements made as a result of a project begun more than one year prior to a city's or county's adoption of an urban revitalization ordinance are not eligible to receive the partial exemption even though some of the improvements are added during the time the area was designated as an urban revitalization area. For a project commenced within one year prior to the adoption of an urban revitalization ordinance, the partial exemption can be allowed only for those improvements constructed on or after the effective date of the ordinance. (1982 O.A.G. 358)

**80.8(4) *Minimum value added.*** Once the minimum value added required by Iowa Code section 404.3(7) has been assessed, any amount of additional value added to the property in subsequent years is eligible for the partial exemption. The value added subject to partial exemption for the first year for which an exemption is claimed and allowed shall include value added to the property for a previous year even if the value added in the previous year was not by itself sufficient to qualify for the partial exemption.

For example, assume that an urban revitalization project is begun on commercial property having an actual value of \$50,000 as of January 1, 1984. As a result of improvements made during 1984, the actual value of the property as of January 1, 1985, is determined to be \$55,000. Additional improvements made during 1985 increase the actual value of the property to \$70,000 for the 1986 assessment. In this example, no partial exemption can be allowed for 1985 since the value added for that year is less than 15 percent of the actual value of the property prior to construction of the improvements. A partial exemption can be allowed for 1986 and subsequent years for the \$20,000 value added in both 1985 and 1986, providing a valid application for the partial exemption is filed between January 1, 1986, and February 1, 1986, inclusive.

**80.8(5) Application for partial exemption.**

*a. Prior approval.* If a taxpayer has secured a prior approval resolution from the city council or the county board of supervisors, the partial exemption cannot be obtained until the year in which all value added for the project is first assessed. A partial exemption can be allowed only if an application is filed between January 1 and February 1, inclusive, of the year in which all value added for the project is first assessed. If an application is not filed during that period, no partial exemption can be allowed for that year or any subsequent year. The submission to the city council or the county board of supervisors of a proposal to receive prior approval does not by itself constitute an application for the partial exemption.

For example, assume a city council or county board of supervisors approves a prior approval resolution in April 1984 for a revitalization project to be completed in September 1986. Assuming all construction on the project is completed in 1986, no partial exemption can be allowed until 1987 since that would be the year in which all value added for the project is first assessed. To receive the partial exemption, a valid application would have to be filed between January 1, 1987, and February 1, 1987, inclusive.

*b. No prior approval.* If a project has not received a prior approval resolution, a taxpayer has the option of receiving the partial exemption beginning with any year in which value is added to the property or waiting until all value added to the property is first assessed in its entirety. To secure a partial exemption prior to the completion of the project, an application must be filed between January 1 and February 1, inclusive, in each year for which the exemption is claimed.

For example, assume a revitalization project is begun in June 1984 and completed in September 1985, that no prior approval resolution for the project has been approved, and that a ten-year exemption period has been selected. Assume further that as a result of construction on the project, value is added for the assessment years 1985 and 1986. If an application is filed between January 1, 1985, and February 1, 1985, inclusive, a partial exemption could be allowed for the value added for 1985 beginning with the 1985 assessment and ending with the 1994 assessment. If an application is filed between January 1, 1986, and February 1, 1986, inclusive, a partial exemption could be allowed for the value added for 1986 beginning with the 1986 assessment and ending with the 1995 assessment. The partial exemption allowable for the years 1986 through 1995 would be against the value added for 1986 as a result of improvements made during calendar year 1985.

In the example above, the taxpayer may elect not to file an application for the partial exemption in 1985. In this situation, if an application is filed between January 1, 1986, and February 1, 1986, inclusive, a partial exemption could be allowed for the total value added for 1985 and 1986 and would apply to assessments for the years 1986 through 1995.

*c. Filing deadline.* If February 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, an application for the partial exemption may be filed the following Monday. Applications submitted by mail must be postmarked on or before February 1, or on or before the following Monday if February 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

*d. Extended filing deadline.* The exemption is allowable for the total number of years in the exemption schedule if a claim for exemption is filed within two years of the original February 1 filing deadline. The city council or county board of supervisors may by resolution provide that an application for the partial exemption can be filed by February 1 of any assessment year the area is designated as an urban revitalization area. The exemption shall be allowed for the same number of years remaining in the exemption schedule selected as would have been remaining had the claim for exemption been timely filed.

**80.8(6) Value exempt.** The partial exemption allowed for a year in which an application is filed shall apply to the value added and first assessed for that year and any value added to the project and assessed for a preceding year or years and for which a partial exemption had not been received.

**80.8(7) *Minimum assessment.*** The partial exemption shall apply only to the value added in excess of the actual value of the property as of the year immediately preceding the year in which value added was first assessed. If the actual value of the property is reduced for any year during the period in which the partial exemption applies, any reduction in value resulting from the partial exemption shall not reduce the assessment of the property below its actual value as of January 1 of the assessment year immediately preceding the year in which value added was first assessed. This subrule applies regardless of whether the reduction in actual value is made by the assessor, the board of review, a court order, or an equalization order of the director of revenue.

**80.8(8) *Value added.*** As used in this rule, the term “value added” means the amount of increase in the actual value of real estate directly attributable to improvements made as part of a revitalization project. “Value added” does not include any increase in actual (market) value attributable to that portion of the real estate assessed prior to the year in which revitalization improvements are first assessed. The sales price of the property rather than the assessed value of the property may be used in determining the percentage increase required to qualify for exemption if the improvements were begun within one year of the date the property was purchased.

**80.8(9) *Repeal of ordinance.*** An urban revitalization project which has received proper prior approval shall be eligible to receive the partial exemption following completion of the project even if the city council or county board of supervisors subsequently repeals the urban revitalization ordinance before improvements in the project are first assessed (1980 O.A.G. 639).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 404 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2622.

## **701—80.9(427C,441) Forest and fruit-tree reservations.**

**80.9(1) *Determination of eligibility for exemption.*** Property for which an application for exemption as a forest or fruit-tree reservation has been filed shall be inspected by the assessor or county conservation board. The county board of supervisors designates whether all inspections in the county are to be made by the assessor, including any city assessor, or by the county conservation board. When appropriate, aerial photographs may be used in place of an on-site inspection of the property. The assessment or exemption of the property is to be based upon criteria established by the state conservation commission and findings obtained by the inspection of the property or the examination of aerial photographs of the property.

### **80.9(2) *Application for exemption.***

*a.* An application for exemption must be filed with the appropriate assessor between January 1 and February 1, inclusive, of the assessment year for which the exemption is first claimed. If the inspection of the property is to be made by the county conservation board, the assessor shall forward the application to the board for its recommendation. Once the application has been accepted, the exemption is applicable to the current and subsequent assessment years and no further application shall be required so long as the property remains eligible for the exemption.

*b.* If February 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, an application for exemption may be filed the following Monday.

*c.* An application shall be considered to be timely filed if postmarked on or before February 1 or the following Monday if February 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

**80.9(3) Notification to property owner.** If the property is to be inspected by the county conservation board, the board shall make every effort to submit its recommendation to the assessor in sufficient time for the assessor to notify the claimant by April 15. The assessor shall notify the claimant by April 15 of the disposition of the application for exemption. If because of the date on which an application is filed a determination of eligibility for the exemption cannot be made in sufficient time for notification to be made by April 15, the assessor shall assess the property and notify the property owner of the inability to act on the application. The notification shall contain the actual value and classification of the property and a statement of the claimant's right of appeal to the local board of review.

**80.9(4) Appeal of eligibility determination.** If a property for which a claim for exemption as a forest or fruit-tree reservation is assessed for taxation, the property owner may appeal the assessment to the board of review under Iowa Code section 441.37.

**80.9(5) Valuation of property.** For each assessment year for which property is exempt as a forest or fruit-tree reservation, the assessor shall determine the actual value and classification that would apply to the property were it assessed for taxation that year. In any year for which the actual value or classification of property so determined is changed, the assessor shall notify the property owner pursuant to Iowa Code sections 441.23, 441.26 and 441.28.

**80.9(6) Recapture tax.**

*a. Assessment of property.* If the county conservation board or the assessor determines a property has ceased to meet the eligibility criteria established by the state conservation commission, the property shall be assessed for taxation and subject to the recapture tax. The property shall be subject to taxes levied against the assessment made as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the property ceased to qualify for exemption. In addition, the property shall be subject to the tax which would have been levied against the assessment made as of January 1 of each of the five preceding calendar years for which the property received an exemption.

*b. Assessment procedure.* If the determination that a property has ceased to be eligible for exemption is made by the assessor by April 15, the assessor shall notify the property owner of the assessment as of January 1 of the year in which the determination is made in accordance with Iowa Code sections 441.23, 441.26, and 441.28. The assessment of the property for any of the five preceding years and for the current year, if timely notice by April 15 cannot be given, shall be by means of an omitted assessment as provided in Iowa Code section 443.6 (*Talley v. Brown*, 146 Iowa 360, 125 N.W. 243(1910)). Appeal of the omitted assessment may be taken pursuant to Iowa Code sections 443.7 and 443.8.

*c. Computation of tax.* The county auditor shall compute the tax liability for each year for which an assessment has been made pursuant to subrule 80.9(6), paragraph "b." The tax liability shall be the amount of tax that would have been levied against each year's assessment had the property not received the exemption. In computing the tax, the valuations established by the assessor shall be adjusted to reflect any equalization order or assessment limitation percentage applicable to each year's assessment.

*d. Entry on tax list.* The tax liability levied against assessments made as of January 1 of any year preceding the calendar year in which the property ceased to qualify for exemption shall be entered on the tax list for taxes levied against all assessments made as of January 1 of the year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the property ceased to qualify for exemption. However, if those taxes have already been certified to the county treasurer, the recapture taxes shall be entered on the tax list for taxes levied against assessments made as of January 1 of the year in which the property ceased to qualify for exemption. The tax against the assessment made as of January 1 of the year in which the property ceased to qualify for exemption shall be levied at the time taxes are levied against all assessments made as of that date.

*e. Delinquencies.* Recapture taxes shall not become delinquent until the time when all other unpaid taxes entered on the same tax list become delinquent.

*f. Exceptions to recapture tax.*

(1) Fruit-tree reservations. Property which has received an exemption as a fruit-tree reservation is not subject to the recapture tax if the property is maintained as a fruit-tree reservation for at least five full calendar years following the last calendar year for which the property was exempt as a fruit-tree reservation.

(2) Property which has been owned by the same person or the person's direct descendants or antecedents for at least ten years prior to the time the property ceases to qualify for exemption shall not be subject to the recapture tax.

(3) Property described in subparagraphs 80.9(6)"f"(1) and 80.9(6)"f"(2) is subject to assessment as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the property ceases to qualify for exemption.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 427C as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, House File 736, and Iowa Code section 441.22.

#### **701—80.10(427B) Underground storage tanks.**

**80.10(1)** *Authority of city councils and county boards of supervisors.* A city council or county board of supervisors may provide by ordinance to grant property tax credits to small business owners for payment of underground storage tank cleanup costs. The ordinance is to designate the period of time over which the credit is to be granted (not to exceed ten years) and the percentage of credit to be granted each year. If the ordinance is repealed, existing credits are to continue through their designated expiration date. A small business means a business with gross receipts of less than \$500,000 per year.

**80.10(2)** *Application for credit.* The small business owner is required to file an application for credit with the respective city council or county board of supervisors by September 30 of the year following the calendar year in which cleanup costs were paid and each succeeding year the credit is applicable. The application for credit shall be prescribed by the director of revenue and finance and shall contain, but not be limited to, the small business owner's cleanup costs and gross receipts for the most recent tax year.

**80.10(3)** *Allowance of credit.* Credits granted by a county board of supervisors are applicable only to property located outside the corporate limits of a city and credits granted by a city council are only applicable to property located within the corporate limits of the city. The amount of the credit granted cannot exceed the small business owner's cleanup costs nor the amount of city or county taxes paid on the property where the underground storage tank is located for any fiscal year the credit is applicable. Upon approval of the application for credit, the city council or county board of supervisors shall direct its city clerk or county treasurer to reimburse the small business owner in the amount of the designated credit.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 427B.20 to 427B.22.

#### **701—80.11(425A) Family farm tax credit.**

**80.11(1)** *Eligibility for credit.* Generally, the family farm tax credit is only intended to benefit tracts of agricultural land that are owned by certain individuals or enumerated legal entities if the owner or other specified persons are actively engaged in farming.

*a.* In order for a tract of land to qualify for the family farm tax credit, the following three criteria must be satisfied:



(1) The tract of land must be an “eligible tract of agricultural land” as defined in Iowa Code subsection 425A.2(5). This means the tract must be ten acres or more or contiguous to a tract of more than ten acres and used in good faith for agricultural or horticultural purposes. More than half of the acres in the tract must be devoted to the production of crops or livestock by a designated person. Contiguous tracts under the same legal ownership and located within the same county are considered one tract. Only tracts of land that are classified as agricultural real estate qualify for the credit.

(2) The tract of land must be owned by:

1. An individual or persons related or formerly related to each other, or
2. A partnership where all the partners are related or formerly related to each other, or
3. A family farm corporation as defined in Iowa Code subsection 9H.1(8), or
4. An authorized farm corporation as defined in Iowa Code subsection 9H.1(3).

The ownership criteria must be met on June 30 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the application for credit is filed. For example, the ownership criteria must be met on June 30, 1990, for applications for credit filed in 1990.

(3) A designated person must be “actively engaged in farming” the tract during the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the application for credit is filed. If the tract is owned by an individual or related persons, the designated person who is actively engaged in farming must be an owner of the tract, the owner’s spouse, or the owner’s relative within the third degree of consanguinity or their spouses. This includes the owner’s child, stepchild, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew or their spouses. The only step relative that may qualify as a designated person is a stepchild. If the owner of the tract is a partnership, the designated person who is actively engaged in farming must be a partner or a partner’s spouse. If the owner of the tract of land is a family farm corporation, the designated person who is actively engaged in farming must be a family member who is a shareholder of the family farm corporation or the shareholder’s spouse. If the owner of the tract of land is an authorized farm corporation, the designated person who is actively engaged in farming must be the shareholder who owns at least 51 percent of the stock of the authorized farm corporation or that shareholder’s spouse.

If the owner is an individual who leases the land to a family farm corporation or partnership, a shareholder of the corporation or a partner of the partnership shall be considered a designated person if the combined stock of the family farm corporation or the combined partnership interest owned by the owner, the owner’s spouse and persons related to the owner within the third degree of consanguinity and their spouses is equal to at least 51 percent of the stock of the family farm corporation or the ownership interest in the partnership.

*b.* In order to be “actively engaged in farming” the designated person must be personally involved in the production of crops or livestock on the “eligible tract” on a regular, continuous and substantial basis. Personal involvement in the production of crops or livestock includes not only field activities such as soil preparation and testing, planting, fertilizing, spraying, inspecting, cultivating and harvesting but also managerial decision-making activities relating to hybrid selection, crop rotation planning, crop selection, equipment purchases and marketing strategies. Personal involvement in the production of crops or livestock also includes activities pertaining to crop insurance selection, loan selection, and financial record maintenance and preparation. A person performing activities in the capacity of a lessor, whether under a cash or crop-share lease and whether under a written or oral lease, is not actively engaged in farming on the area of the tract covered by the lease.

c. Tracts subject to a federal program pertaining to agricultural land. In lieu of satisfying the “actively engaged in farming” test, a designated person may demonstrate that the person was in general control of the tract which was subject to a federal program pertaining to agricultural land during the prior fiscal year. This alternative test is intended to apply in circumstances where the active farming criteria cannot be met because the land is in the Conservation Reserve Program (commonly referred to as the CRP) or a program substantially similar to the 0/92 option where the tract has been taken out of production.

d. The following examples illustrate family farm tax credit eligibility under various circumstances:

EXAMPLE 1. A and B jointly own land and were both personally involved in the farming operation. They are not related. No credit is allowable because it is a requirement that individual owners be related. If A and B were brothers, the land would qualify for the credit.

EXAMPLE 2. A owns the land and is retired. A leased the land to B, his son. B was personally involved in the farming operation. The land is eligible for the credit even though a lease arrangement existed because the actively engaged in farming requirement can be satisfied through the activities of the owner's spouse, or the owner's relative within the third degree of consanguinity or the relative's spouse. See paragraph “a,” subparagraph (3), of this subrule. No credit would be allowable if A and B were not related.

EXAMPLE 3. A owns two contiguous 40-acre tracts. A farmed all of one tract but only 15 acres of the other tract. The other 25 acres of the second tract were leased to a nondesignated person. Both tracts qualify for the credit because contiguous tracts under the same legal ownership are considered one tract and more than half of the total of 80 acres ( $40 + 15 = 55$ ) were farmed by A.

EXAMPLE 4. The land is owned by a partnership in which the partners A, B, C and D are brothers. A and B farm the land but C and D have no involvement in the farming operation. The land is eligible for the credit because it makes no difference what level of involvement each partner had nor does it matter that one or more of the partners were not personally involved in the farming operation. The only requirement for qualifying for the credit is that at least one of the partners or one of the partners' spouses was personally involved in the farming operation. No credit would be allowable if all the partners were not related to each other.

EXAMPLE 5. The land is owned by a family farm corporation in which the stock is owned equally by A, B and C. A and B are brothers but not related to C. All three partners were personally involved in the farming operation. The land qualifies for the credit because it is only a requirement that a family member who is a shareholder in the family farm corporation be involved in the farming operation. The land would qualify for the credit even if B was not involved in the farming operation. However, no credit would be allowable if only C was involved in the farming operation.

EXAMPLE 6. The land is owned by an authorized farm corporation in which 60 percent of the stock is owned by A and 40 percent of the stock is owned by B. Both A and B were personally involved in the farming operation. The credit is allowable as long as the stockholder who owns at least 51 percent of the stock was personally involved in the farming operation. No credit would be allowable if A was not personally involved in the farming operation.

**80.11(2) *Application for credit.*** To obtain the credit, the owner must file an application for credit with the assessor by November 1. If the claim for credit is approved, no further filing shall be required provided the ownership and the designated person actively engaged in farming the property remain the same during successive years. A new application for credit shall be required only if the property is sold or the designated person changes. The county board of supervisors shall review all claims and make a determination as to eligibility. The claimant may appeal a decision of the board to district court by giving written notice to the board within 20 days of the board's notice.

**80.11(3) *Application of credit.*** The county auditor shall certify to the department of revenue and finance by April 1 the total amount of family farm tax credits due the county. The county auditor shall apply the credit to each eligible tract of land in an amount equal to the school district tax rate which is in excess of \$5.40 multiplied by the taxable value of the eligible tract.

**80.11(4) *Penalty.*** The owner shall provide written notice to the assessor if the designated person changes. Failure to do so shall result in the owner's being liable for the amount of the credit plus a penalty equal to 5 percent of the amount of the credit granted.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 425A as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, House Files 712 and 713.

**701—80.12(427) Methane gas conversion property.**

**80.12(1) *Application for exemption.*** An application for exemption is required to be filed with the appropriate assessing authority by February 1 of each year. The assessed value of the property is to be prorated to reflect the appropriate amount of exemption if the property used to convert the methane gas to energy also uses another fuel. The first year exemption shall be equal to the estimated ratio that the methane gas consumed bears to the total fuel consumed times the assessed value of the property. The exemption for subsequent years shall be based on the actual ratio for the previous year.

**80.12(2) *Eligibility for exemption.*** To qualify for exemption, the property must be used in connection with a publicly owned sanitary landfill to collect methane gas or other gases produced as a byproduct of waste decomposition and convert the gas to energy or to collect waste that will be used to produce methane gas or other gases for conversion into energy. The property used to decompose the waste and convert the waste to gas is not eligible for the exemption.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 427.1(29) as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, Senate File 520.

**701—80.13(427B) Wind energy conversion property.** A city council or county board of supervisors may provide by ordinance for the special valuation of wind energy conversion property. If the ordinance is repealed, the special valuation applies through the nineteenth assessment year following the first year the property was assessed. The special valuation applies to property first assessed on or after the effective date of the ordinance. The local assessor shall value the property in accordance with the schedule provided in Iowa Code Supplement section 427B.26(2). Public utility property qualifies for special valuation provided the taxpayer files a declaration of intent with the local assessor by February 1 of the assessment year the property is first assessed for tax to have the property locally assessed.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 427B.26.

**701—80.14(427) Mobile home park storm shelter.**

**80.14(1) *Application for exemption.*** An application for exemption must be filed with the assessing authority by February 1 of the first year the exemption is requested. Applications for exemption are not required in subsequent years if the property remains eligible for exemption.

**80.14(2) *Eligibility for exemption.*** The structure must be located in a mobile home park as defined in Iowa Code section 435.1.

**80.14(3) *Valuation exempted.*** If the structure is used exclusively as a storm shelter, it shall be fully exempt from taxation. If not used exclusively as a storm shelter, the exemption shall be limited to 25 percent of the structure's valuation.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 427.1(30) as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, House File 736.

**701—80.15(427) Barn and one-room schoolhouse preservation.** The increase in value added to a farm structure constructed prior to 1937 or one-room schoolhouse as a result of improvements made is exempt from tax. An application must be filed with the assessor by February 1 of the first assessment year only and the exemption is to continue as long as the structure continues to be used as a barn or in the case of a one-room schoolhouse is not used for dwelling purposes. A “barn” is an agricultural structure that is used for the storage of farm products or feed or the housing of farm animals, poultry, or farm equipment.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 427.1(31) and 427.1(32) as amended by 2000 Iowa Acts, House File 2560.

**701—80.16(426) Agricultural land tax credit.**

**80.16(1) Eligibility for credit.** The credit shall be allowed on land in tracts of ten acres or more, or land of less than ten acres if part of other land of more than ten acres, and used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

**80.16(2) Application for credit.** No application for credit is required.

**80.16(3) Application of credit.** The county auditor shall certify to the department of revenue and finance by April 1 the total amount of agricultural land tax credits due the county. The county auditor shall apply the credit to each eligible tract of land in an amount equal to the school district tax rate which is in excess of \$5.40 multiplied by the taxable value of the eligible tract.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 426 as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, House File 713.

**701—80.17(427) Indian housing property.** Property owned and operated by an Indian housing authority, as defined in 24 CFR 950.102, is exempt from taxation provided the exemption has been approved by the city council or county board of supervisors, whichever is applicable, and a valid claim for exemption has been filed pursuant to Iowa Code section 427.1(14) by February 1.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 427.1 as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, Senate File 449.

**701—80.18(427) Property used in value-added agricultural product operations.** Fixtures used for cooking, refrigeration, or freezing of value-added agricultural products used in value-added agricultural processing or used in direct support of value-added agricultural processing are exempt from tax. Direct support includes storage by public refrigerated warehouses for processors of value-added agricultural products prior to the start of the value-added agricultural processing operation. The exemption does not apply to fixtures used primarily for retail sale or display. If the taxpayer is a retailer, there is a presumption that the fixtures are being used primarily for retail sale or display. The exemption applies only to fixtures that are attached in a manner set forth in Iowa Code section 427A.1(2).

The following definitions apply to this rule:

“*Fixture*” means property which was originally personal property but which by being physically attached to the realty becomes part of the realty and upon removal does not destroy the property to which it is attached.

“*Value-added agricultural processing*” means an operation whereby an agricultural product is subjected to some special treatment by artificial or natural means which changes its form, context, or condition, and results in a marketable agricultural product to be sold at retail. These operations are commonly associated with fabricating, compounding, germinating, or manufacturing.

“*Value-added agricultural product*” means an agricultural product which, through a series of activities or processes, may be sold at a higher price than its original purchase price.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 427A.1 as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, House File 715.

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